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To: Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; John Armstead/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: shale update

Two salients from last week:

Orders of Compliance Issued to Trans Energy, Inc. for 404 Impacts -- On December 17, 2012, EPA Region III issued four Administrative Orders to Trans Energy, Inc. for violating Section 404 of the Clean Water Act at the Christopher, Lucey, Keaton, and Goshorn Impoundment Sites in Marshall County, West Virginia. The violations included the unauthorized placement of fill material into streams for the construction of freshwater impoundments associated with Trans Energy, Inc. Marcellus Shale drilling operations.
(Stephanie Andreescu, 4-2747; Stefania Shamet, ORC4-2682)

The Region Receives an Incident Report on Dimock, Pennsylvania On December 19, 2012, Region 3 received both a citizen complaint and a National Response Center (NRC) incident report, alleging concerns with drinking water quality at a home in the Dimock area, located in Pennsylvania. The reports suggest that well water has become black and is fizzing after Cabot recently renewed hydraulic fracturing of wells in the area. The citizen complaint alleged that Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) refuses to perform a follow-up investigation at a resident's well. The resident, in turn, filed the NRC report. The resident's home is one of the several homes that were closely evaluated by the Region during its response action earlier in 2012. Per Region 3 protocols, Regional personnel will follow-up on the complaint and the NRC report with PADEP. Karen Johnson and Rich Fetzer are leading the follow-up efforts on behalf of Water Protection Division and Hazardous Site Cleanup Division. (Dennis Carney, 4-3241)

Not much going on this week. HF study progress report got press. Some local rallying of comments on two UIC well permits.

Next week:

- Jan 3 presentation by ATSDR/APD: health effects associated with shale gas development
- Jan 4 EPA employees' webinar on HF study progress report

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